

ABSTRACT

This invention relates to a polypeptide fragment which comprises an amino acid sequence encoded by a member of the *esat-6* gene. A member of the *esat-6* gene family is defined as gene encoding a small protein and that two such genes are arranged next to each other on the
5 genome and that at least one of the gene products has an amino acid sequence identity to either Rv3874, Rv3875, or Rv0288 of at least 15%.